

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 SP-02 INR-05 PRS-01 EB-04 /031 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH:BA
APPROVED BY AF/W-THOMAS W.M. SMITH
-----030418 125483 /61
R 030154Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 046888

STADIS/////////////////
LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: BEXP, IV

SUBJECT: ISC-SODESUCRE DISPUTE

REF: A) ABIDJAN 1687, B) STATE 34995

1. MEDIATOR IN ISC-SODESUCRE DISPUTE, DAVID MORSE,
CALLED AF/W MARCH 1 TO BRIEF US ON HIS MEETING AT END OF
FEBRUARY WITH "INTERLOCUTORS" FROM ISC (FRITSCH) AND
SODESUCRE (TORCZYNER). MORSE SAID THE MEETING WAS IN-
CONCLUSIVE.

2. BEFORE MEETING FRITSCH HAD WRITTEN TO TORCZYNER TO
THE EFFECT THAT DELAY ADDED TO INTEREST CHARGES ISC MUST
PAY ON MONEY BORROWED TO FINANCE LANG. TORCZYNER WAS
GREATLY CONCERNED BECAUSE HE FELT HE COULD BE HELD
PARTLY ACCOUNTABLE BY GOIC FOR DELAY THAT WOULD INCREASE
COST OF FINAL SETTLEMENT. IN ORDER TO PROTECT HIS
POSITION HE REPLIED WITH A LETTER TO FRITSCH ASKING A
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LARGE NUMBER OF QUESTIONS AND WITHDRAWING THE OFFER HE
HAD MADE TO SETTLE FOR DOLS 5 MILLION.

3. DURING THE MEETING, TORCZYNER INFORMED MORSE THAT HE
FELT HE WOULD HAVE TO ASK FOR HOUPHOUET'S GUIDANCE. MORSE
APPARENTLY SUGGESTED THAT HE APPROACH HOUPHOUET THROUGH

THE RESPONSIBLE GOIC MINISTERS, AND EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN THAT TORCZYNER MIGHT BE SEEN TO BE BYPASSING THE MINISTERS. FRITSCH EXPRESSED CONCERN REGARDING FURTHER DELAY IN MEDIATION. TORCZYNER SAID THAT HE WOULD SEEK THE PRESIDENT'S VIEWS IN THE EXPECTATION THAT THIS WOULD ACCELERATE THE MEDIATION, AND FRITSCH APPARENTLY AGREED FOR THIS REASON. IF TORCZYNER CANNOT OBTAIN THE VIEWS OF THE PRESIDENT, THE MEDIATION WILL RESUME IN APRIL AT THE POINT REACHED AT THE END OF FEBRUARY.

4. FOREGOING IS FOR EMBASSY'S INFORMATION ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED WITH GOIC.

5. MORSE SAID HE WOULD PROBABLY INFORM GOIC MINISTERS THAT TORCZYNER WOULD SEEK PRESIDENT'S VIEWS DIRECTLY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE046888
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TWMSMITH:BA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770072-0827
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770396/aaaadgyv.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1c0638be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS, STADIS
Reference: 77 ABIDJAN 1687, 77 STATE 34995
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3217881
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISC-SODESUCRE DISPUTE
TAGS: BEXP, IV
To: ABIDJAN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1c0638be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009